

# INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

**ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN**

## IDYLIC SUNDAY AFTERNOON

### Successful "At Home" at Heinrich Stahl House

The scene was remarkably evocative of a Wilde play: fixed in a broad wash of September sun, beneficent and warm, the bright multicoloured parasols punctuated the sparkling green of the lawn and shaded residents and their guests as they took their tea and coffee with a bewildering variety of cakes and scones and biscuits—a tableau that suspended time for the length of a perpetual perfect Sunday afternoon. The Heinrich Stahl House in Bishop's Avenue was "At Home" to relations, guests and Friends of the AJR, for sociability and fund-raising, on 12 September.

Moving from that jolly scene into and through the house, one sees why it won a Class I Commendation from the Civic Trust for its design back in 1962. It still looks good and functions effectively twenty years later. At the time it set new standards for the accommodation of the elderly, and though some features would now be conceived differently—with individual lavatories, for example—the layout and the facilities are impressive and serve their purpose well. The dining room is spacious without sacrificing a feeling of intimacy, with meat and milk sections separated by their respective colours, the blue and orange tables. The residents group and re-group according to their whim or fancy, or their sense of clique.

Pleasant well-lit corridors with potted plants divert notions of institutionality, and a glance into particular rooms confirms their attractive personalised nature, their look of home, their stamp of individuality. The pictures are their own and the furnishings; only the bed, which must be suitable for nursing purposes, is mandatory.

At the end of the hall on the upper storey is the inviting library or reading room. The mobile library calls once a fortnight, and the residents are considerable readers, but here arose the problem so often mentioned by the honorary officers of the AJR, the need for voluntary helpers. The library could use such a helper, to issue and arrange books, to make sure that a constant flow of German and English works is available for lively minds, to solicit donations of appropriate books and magazines.

The notice board downstairs indicates what volunteers can and do accomplish. Mrs. Alexander, for example, accompanies residents on outings to keep minds lively and open through contact with the outside world. There is professional occupational therapy, and there is music and movement to keep

bodies limber and active. And there are the much cherished and enjoyed birthday teas as anniversaries roll round to brighten the routine. Overseeing all this activity and ensuring the smooth functioning of daily routine is the tall, bustling and efficient figure of Miss Ruth Gawthorpe, warm, tolerant and understanding the varied needs of the residents.

The bazaar raffle was run with his customary brisk efficiency and good humour by the AJR Hon. Treasurer, Mr. L. Spiro, who, as Chairman of the Management Committee of the Homes, is acting temporarily as Chairman of the Heinrich Stahl House Committee. There was a general pleasure and a squeal of joy from Miss Lily Domingo, one of the devoted Filipino workers who do so much to help create the caring atmosphere, when she won the first prize, a white ski jacket. The takings of the raffle, and the sale of all sorts of craft items, as well as the entrance fees from the many visitors came to the considerable sum of £1,268. The raffle was drawn by the eldest of the 54 residents, the chair-bound but very lively and alert 99-year-old Mrs. Pariser.

#### SOURCES OF THE FUNDS

Heinrich Stahl House is named for the last Chairman of the Berlin Jewish Community, who was murdered by the Nazis. The funds for building the Home came from the Jewish Trust Corporation, which recovered the money from heirless, unclaimed and communal Jewish property in the British Zone of Germany and the British Sector of Berlin. A detailed description of the sources of the funds is given in Charles Kapralik's excellent account of the working of the Jewish Trust Corporation, "Reclaiming the Nazi Loot" and the "History of the Work of the Jewish Trust Corporation for Germany". Charles Kapralik, who was so closely involved in obtaining and administering the restitution funds and reclaimed moneys, and not least with the building of this particular Home, is now 88, and himself a resident of Heinrich Stahl House.

As they drifted away from that long Sunday afternoon "At Home", many of the visitors must have thought that considering how rarely man's arrangements and institutions turn out as he has planned them and as he would wish them to be, it is good to know that sometimes, within the limits of his scope and his imperfections, he does get it right.

## AMADEUS TRIO SELF AID CONCERT

Last year one had thought that the Queen Elizabeth Hall could not be fuller for the annual Self Aid concert, but on Sunday, 17 October, it was indeed sold out, with not an empty seat to be seen in the solidly-packed hall. Partly this was the opportunity the occasion provided to socialise with old friends and acquaintances, but also, surely, the irresistible attraction of a performance by the Amadeus Trio—Norbert Brainin, Peter Schidlof and Martin Lovett.

#### FULLY EXPLORED

We were not disappointed. Each of the two works performed comprised a world of its own, fully explored and realised by the distinguished Trio. Beethoven's Serenade in D, op. 8, was well characterised by Paul Bekker, who noted its "sense of humour, its untroubled sunny delight in existence . . . its chief charm lying in the grace and ease of the themes and the pleasing skill with which they are arranged". The Amadeus extracted every ounce of charm.

#### MARVELLOUS DIVERTIMENTO

Mozart's Divertimento in E-flat, K.563 is on a very different scale, his longest chamber work and the most considerable string trio in the repertory, the only one he wrote, and the first string trio to give equal weight to all three instruments. After completing his last symphony Mozart had a troubled fallow period of some six weeks, when he wrote almost nothing, a few canons. Then came this marvellous Divertimento, to be followed by nine months or so without any significant work. In his chamber *oeuvre* it comes between the G minor quintet and the first "Prussian" quartet.

The Amadeus were in top form and did the work full justice, with a particularly rapt rendering of the Adagio. Mr. Brainin was his usual authoritative self, Mr. Lovett conveyed his own enjoyment with a rhythmic bounce and mellifluous intonation, and Mr. Schidlof was especially gracious in his rewarding viola part. Altogether a splendid occasion.

M.S.

#### GERMAN AUTHORS ABROAD

For the fourth time, the PEN Centre German Speaking Writers Abroad, London, has published a volume of autobiographies of its members, also containing a commemorative addendum with the names and dates of those former members who have died since 1960. While the previous issues were edited by the late Gabriele Tergit, the present one is presented by an editorial committee. The handy ring book gives valuable information on older as well as younger writers of the German tongue in eleven countries around the world. The book can be obtained from the Secretary of the PEN Club, 10 Pattison Road, London NW2, Tel: 01-435 1460. Price for AJR members £2.50.

E. G. Lowenthal

## FESTAKT IN BERLIN

### Mendelssohn Preis fuer Eva Reichmann

„Gerade weil ich als Angehörige der jüdischen Minderheit ein ganzes Leben lang mir das Streben nach Toleranz zu eigen gemacht habe, war ich mir bewusst, dass Toleranz etwas Grosses, etwas Herrliches ist, dass sie aber nicht genügt.“ Toleranz dürfe nicht bei einem blossen Ertragen des Andersartigen ihr Bewenden haben, sondern müsse dazu führen, „ihn zu respektieren, ihn zu ehren, von ihm zu lernen, ja sich sogar seiner zu erfreuen“. Mit diesen Sätzen klang die in Gedankenreichtum und Diktion tief beeindruckende akademische Dankrede von Dr. Eva G. Reichmann (London) aus, nachdem ihr der diesjährige Moses-Mendelssohn-Preis des Berliner Senats in einer Feierstunde in der Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz überreicht worden war. Der 1979 anlässlich der 250. Wiederkehr von Mendelssohns Geburtstag vom Land gestiftete, mit 20,000 Mark dotierte Preis dient „der Förderung der Toleranz gegenüber Andersdenkenden und zwischen Völkern, Rassen und Religionen“. 1980 erstmals vergeben, wird er alle zwei Jahre, und zwar jeweils am 6. September, dem Geburtstag des Philosophen, verliehen.

In ihrer historisch-soziologischen Betrachtung stellte Eva Reichmann fest: „Das Vorurteil ist die Wurzel der Intoleranz.“ Sigmund Freud habe einmal bemerkt, die Intoleranz der Massen äussere sich merkwürdigerweise gegen kleine Unterschiede stärker als gegen fundamentale Differenzen. Solche kleinen Unterschiede bestanden in Deutschland, so Eva Reichmann, nicht nur auf religiösem Gebiet, auf dem sie am stärksten ins Bewusstsein traten. Es habe auch Unterschiede im Familienleben, in der Lebenshaltung, in der Denkart gegeben. Aus dem Wirrwarr der oft widersprüchlichen Einzelwahrnehmungen flüchte man in die Verallgemeinerung, aus dem aufkeimenden Zweifel an die eigene Weisheit in die Abwertung des Anderen. Als besonders bevorzugt für die vorurteilsbehaftete Intoleranz im menschlichen Miteinander bezeichnete die Rednerin die gesellschaftlichen Gruppenbildungen. Als Jüdin sei sie immer auf Toleranz angewiesen gewesen, an der es ihr als Person nicht gefehlt habe, die aber ihrer engeren Gemeinschaft in vollem Umfang fast immer versagt blieb und die dieser schliesslich, mit den entsetzlichsten Folgen, völlig geraubt wurde. Als permanente Minderheit bedeutete Toleranz für die Juden der Diaspora immer die Voraussetzung ihres Daseins. Unter den Zionisten in Deutschland, und Eva Reichmann nannte, stellvertretend für die Bewegung, Buber, Arnold Zweig und

Robert Weltsch, sei einst sehr ernsthaft und opferbereit darum gerungen worden, dass, sofern ein jüdischer Staat jemals ins Leben träte, dieser ein Staat der Gerechtigkeit, des Friedens und der Toleranz sein müsse. Er konnte nicht gelingen, so meinte sie, weil „die Daseinsgesetze souveräner Staaten mit den Träumen der auf Toleranz angewiesenen Minderheitsgruppen nicht vereinbar sind“—dies sei ein Beispiel, das uns allen nahegehe und uns nachdenklich mache.

Berlins Regierender Bürgermeister, Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker, hatte es sich nicht nehmen lassen, namens des Senats die Verleihung des Moses-Mendelssohn-Preises an Frau Dr. Reichmann persönlich vorzunehmen. Toleranz sei, so betonte er bei dieser Gelegenheit, die Lebensbedingung für die Freiheit und für eine menschenwürdigere Gesellschaft. Toleranz fusse auf der Kraft des eigenen Standpunktes, auch auf der Kraft, den Anderen zu achten und anzuerkennen. Berlin besitze eine urbane Weltoffenheit, und er könne sich vorstellen, dass der Mendelssohn-Preis künftighin in seiner Auswirkung auch die grosstädtische Problematik stärker berücksichtige.

Seiner Laudatio auf die Preisträgerin legte Oberkonsistorialrat Dr. Joachim Hoppe (von der Evangelischen Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg, Berlin West) als Mitglied der Jury das Motto „In Treue lernen und leben“ zugrunde. Er umriss die verschiedenen Phasen in Eva Reichmanns Werdegang. Unter dem Einfluss ihres Elternhauses in Oppeln und besonders von Dr. Leo Baeck habe sie gelernt, „als deutsche Jüdin den aufrechten Gang zu gehen und Zuneigung zu den Schwachen zu üben“. Ihr wissenschaftliches und publizistisches Lebenszeugnis decke die Gefahrenstellen auf, warum und wie es zum Holocaust kommen konnte. Dr. Reichmann habe sich in der Treue zu den Gemordeten bewährt und zur Umkehr und zum Neubeginn gemahnt. Sie habe sich „aus Treue zum jüdischen Volk den Fragen des eigenen Gewissens im innerjüdischen Konflikt über Diasporajudentum und Staat nie entlassen“ betonte Dr. Hoppe.

So wurde der 253. Geburtstag Moses Mendelssohns in Berlin, der Stadt, in der er lange lebte und wirkte, würdig-feierlich begangen. Die höchst eindrucksvolle Feierstunde war von einer stattlichen Zuhörerschaft (darunter zwei Berliner Oberschulklassen) besucht und von Klaviermusik des Mendelssohn-Enkels Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, vorgetragen von Peter Froundjian, adäquat umrahmt.

### HARDSHIP FUND

Time Limit 31 December, 1982

As already stated on previous occasions, the deadline for applications to the Hardship Fund will expire on 31 December, 1982. The Hardship Fund was established primarily for such Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who emigrated from Eastern European countries after 1965. Applications may also be filed by such persecutees who, prior to 31 December, 1965 resided in countries outside Eastern Europe and did not file timely claims under the German Indemnification Law. The individual payments are limited to DM 5,000 (five thousand) per person. More than 100 million DM has already been paid out to eligible claimants.

Applicants in this country who have not yet filed their claims may obtain applications from: Claims Conference Hardship Fund, Grueneburgweg 119, 6000 Frankfurt/Main, West Germany.

According to the Governmental Instructions, persons falling under the categories mentioned in this announcement qualify for a payment if they have suffered considerable damage to health. This is automatically assumed if they suffered deprivation of liberty. The required minimum period of this deprivation was originally two years. It has now been reduced to one year.

### Oesterreichische Sozialversicherung

#### WITWER-PENSIONEN

Bedauerlicherweise ist der folgende Absatz aus einem unverständlichen Grunde nicht in dem Artikel ueber Witwer-Pensionen erschienen:

„Staatsfinanzielle Gruende haben die oesterreichische Regierung zu folgenden Einschraenkungen veranlasst:

- Witwepensionen werden nur gezahlt, wenn die Ehegattin nach dem 31. Mai 1981 verschieden ist.
- Die Witwepension gebuehrt bis zum 1.1.1985 zu einem Drittel, ab 1.1.1985 zu zwei Drittel und ab 1.1.1989 in voller Hoehe des zuerkannten Betrages.

Diese Einschraenkungen gelten jedoch nicht fuer Witwepensionen, die nach der bisherigen Gesetzgebung gebuehrt haetten.“

### NEW OFFICE FOR MR. SPIRO

Mr. Ludwig Spiro, Hon. Treasurer of the AJR and Chairman of the Management Committee for the Homes, has been invited to join the Council of the CBF/World Jewish Relief. We greatly welcome this acknowledgment of Mr. Spiro's most effective activities. His membership of the Council will also strengthen the close relationship between the CBF and the AJR in a formal way.

### SCRAP OF PRINTING HISTORY

A scrap of paper bearing a few printed flowers and Hebrew words may prove one of the most exciting items of the Taylor-Schechter Genizah research unit and collection at Cambridge. The fragment is believed to date from the 14th century and pre-dates all known Hebrew printing by about a hundred years. The process used was wood-block printing, where the decorations and words were hand-carved on the blocks. It was a Chinese invention, was taken to Egypt and was used there for Arabic printing in the 14th century. Although the piece of paper had been examined before by researchers working on the Genizah collection of medieval documents and fragments from Egypt, it was not until recently that one of them, Dr. Paul Fenton, realised that it might well mark a new chapter in the history of Hebrew printing.

### HEADMASTER INSPIRED BY BELSEN VISIT

Only a fortnight after the Nazis marched into Prague, Abraham "Eddy" Wulwik arrived in England knowing scarcely a word of the language. But with the outbreak of war six months later, his linguistic ability gained him a job in British Intelligence, and during the occupation of Germany he acted as clerk to the military court in Düsseldorf and as interpreter in preliminary Nuremberg hearings. About this time, he visited the site of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and the emotion he felt there directed him to turn his career towards teaching and the encouragement of religious belief. Pursuing this ideal, Mr. Wulwik became acting head and later headmaster of the North-West London Jewish Day School, where he remained for 34 years until his recent retirement.

### RACIST "COMICS" LEFT OUTSIDE SCHOOLS

Following complaints to the Director of Public Prosecutions, Robert Edwards was prosecuted at Snaresbrook Crown Court in connection with his cartoons published in the racist "comic", "The Stormer". He was sentenced to 12 months in prison for his part in publishing material which was likely to stir up hatred against Jews and coloured people in Britain. Edwards agreed that at the time he drew cartoons he was deputy editor of "Frontline", the organ of the National Front Constitutional Movement, but said he did not know they were intended for British publication. The court heard that bundles of "The Stormer" were left outside schools up and down the country with a notice saying "Free comics—please take one".

## HOME NEWS

### WIDER TV PICTURE OF THE HOLOCAUST

Two unique events recently presented by BBC Television on successive nights gave a wider picture of the Holocaust and its implications. The first programme showed the Survivors' Meeting in Jerusalem in 1981, where men and women singled out from the many deeply emotional participants told their stories of horror, each of them a microcosm of the sufferings undergone by thousands more: the woman doctor who aborted hundreds of pregnancies to save women from vivisection, the mother who killed her starving infant to save it from further agony as the subject of a medical experiment.

The other rare document comprised passages from the film record of Eichmann's trial in Jerusalem, given as part of a balanced indictment of the Allies for their failure to help the victims of the Holocaust, whether by bombing the death camps or by opening their gates to Jews. Based chiefly on Martin Gilbert's researches for his book "Auschwitz and the Allies", the programme threw into relief the callousness and refusal to accept clear evidence which armoured British and American officials against the claims of humanity.

### UNION'S ANTI-RACIST COURSE PRAISED

A call for trade unions to commit themselves to anti-racist education programmes is made in a report published by the Centre for Contemporary Studies. John McLroy, a tutor at Manchester University, says that the unions should grapple with the racist ideas of white workers. However, he commends as a model the General and Municipal Workers' Union course on race relations. Intended for union officials and shop stewards, the residential course includes a historical survey of race policies from the period before the Aliens Act 1905, chiefly directed against Jewish settlers in the East End of London, through to the time of Mosley's British Union of Fascists and finally dealing with present-day immigration.

### JEWISH INTERESTS IN COUNTRY TOWNS

The small Jewish community in East Grinstead, Sussex, has grown over the last few years to such an extent that the time has come to look for synagogue premises instead of hiring local halls every few weeks. Formally inaugurated in 1978, the community now numbers 100 people and about one-quarter of these are children.

At another small town in Devon, the Torbay Fellowship for Israel invited a speaker to give an eye-witness report of events in Lebanon, to accompany showings of a film "Messiah's Feast". The film showed the opening of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem last year.

### OPEN AIR DANCERS IN SCOTLAND

Scotland has seen a number of performances by the Holon Dance Troupe, a group made up of students from Holon, Israel. As part of an exchange scheme organised by Strathclyde Regional Council, the troupe danced Israeli and Chasidic dances in the open air at Ayr, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Children were fascinated by the performance and joined in eagerly.

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### JEWISH HISTORY SHOWN IN BELFAST

Belfast has recently seen two exhibitions of Jewish interest. One, mounted by the small Christian sect of Christadelphians, presented a short history of Judaism and Israel, displaying religious objects, Hebrew Bibles, ancient Hebrew coins and even a Jewish cookery book. At the same time, the first ever one-man show by an Israeli artist was held at the Ulster Museum, where the paintings, graphic works and sculptures of Yaacov Agam were shown and aroused much comment for their bold colour and execution.

### DAHRENDORF KNIGHTED

Although Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, director of the London School of Economics, retains his German nationality, he has been made a Knight Commander of the British Empire in recognition of his services to Britain. Foreigners are rarely accorded this honour, which does not entitle them to use the prefix "Sir".

### THANKS FOR HELP

The Welfare Officer of Eleanor Rathbone House would like to thank readers for the magnificent response to her appeal for sewing machines, two of which have now been installed in the Arts and Crafts Centre.

### LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust has received the following legacies: From the estate of the late Mr. J. Reichold £400; from the estate of the late Dr. Z. A. Leitner £680; from the estate of Dr. Elisabeth Rose Maier £18,000 (interim); and from the estate of the late Miss C. Eyck £21,000 (interim).

### SIEGMUND WARBURG

We regret to announce the death, at 80, of Siegmund Warburg, who was Honorary Chairman of Self Aid. An obituary will appear next month.

With acknowledgement to the news service  
of the Jewish Chronicle.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### CEMETERY IN GURS

Sir,—Whilst on a recent visit to South West France, I paid a visit to the former site of Camp de Gurs, which is well marked on the road maps. There was a large placard on the road telling the number of Jewish people (about 45,000) who were detained in the Camp during the war. On another part of the site a cemetery is situated, which comprises the graves of 1,200 people who died in or near Gurs. Most of them were Jews from Baden.

I am writing to inform your readers of this, in case there are more people who are not aware of the cemetery, which is very well looked after and paid for by the Federal German Government.

The location of the site is on the junction of D 936 and D 25 between Oloron and Navarreux.

34 St. Andrews Grove,  
London N16 5NE

R. KAUFMANN

### GALLERY NOTES

Emil Orlik (1870-1932), the tailor's son from Prague, studied art in Munich and eventually became a professor at the Staatliche Lehranstalt des Kunstgewerbemuseums in Berlin. He was associated with Pankok, Liebermann and Klimt and travelled extensively, particularly to the Far East. Whether in his portraits, figure studies or landscapes Orlik was deeply influenced by the Japanese prints he had seen on his travels. He was a master of the art of print-making, but no less adept in his drawings and paintings. A representative exhibition of his works, including many pictures not previously seen, has recently been held at the Margaret Fisher gallery, 2 Lambolle Place, NW3. Some of Orlik's work is still available.

The latest major exhibition at the Royal Academy "Painting in Naples from Caravaggio to Giordano" (open until 12 December) includes over 150 paintings gathered from all over the world and shows the richness and variety of painting in Naples during the seventeenth century. Well-worth a visit, even for the superb catalogue produced in association with Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

ALICE SCHWAB

### ALFRED LEWINNEK 90

On 26 October, Mr. Alfred Lewinnek celebrated his 90th birthday. In Berlin, his native city, he was, after completion of his studies, "Studienrat" at the Neukoelln Realgymnasium, which under its director Karsen was later renamed the Karl-Marx-Schule. He was dismissed when the Nazis came to power and, in a voluntary capacity, joined the ORT vocational training courses. Together with his wife, several other teachers and 100 boys he arrived in this country three days before the outbreak of war. The school was re-established in Leeds with Mr. Lewinnek as its superintendent. For lack of means, it had to close down two years later, but after the war, Mr. Lewinnek was requested to set up a new ORT school in London for survivors of the concentration camps, with himself as headmaster. After two years, all the students found well-paid jobs and Mr. Lewinnek became a senior maths-master at Wandsworth Grammar School for another 14 years. He retired at the age of 71, mainly to look after his wife who had become seriously ill. Fortunately she has recovered. We extend our sincerest congratulations to Mr. Lewinnek and our best wishes for Mrs. Lewinnek, who did admirable work as a member of the House Committee of Otto Hirsch House in Kew from its foundation until its closure.

### BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

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## NEWS FROM ABROAD

### CANADA

#### Oldest Synagogue Restored

Only a few years after the 1858 gold rush, Temple Emanu-El was built in Victoria, British Columbia, to serve the first hundred Jewish settlers in the city. Today it is the oldest synagogue in Canada and it has been extensively restored in the past months: the work involved a total stripping of the stucco exterior put on in 1948 and the removal of a false ceiling and other interior fittings. Restoration was helped by the use of pictures of the synagogue dating from its foundation in 1863. The service of rededication was preceded by a parade through the streets of Victoria and was attended by the province's Premier and many other public figures.

#### Canada's Refugee Policy Revealed

Two Canadian professors, Irving Abella and Harold Troper, have published "None is Too Many", which reveals the determined, but undisclosed, Canadian policy of not admitting Jewish refugees in the '30s and in the war years. Even Vincent Massey, the apparently pro-Jewish Canadian High Commissioner, formulated a plan for taking in Sudeten German refugees, which would enable his country to boast of sheltering Hitler's victims, whilst avoiding the necessity of Jewish immigration. Fewer than 5,000 Jewish refugees gained entry to Canada over the whole period 1933-1945.

#### War Crimes Man Chooses Prison

The first man likely to be extradited from Canada on war crimes charges, 73-year-old Albert Helmut Rauca, is remaining in prison for his own safety. Rauca, accused by the West German government of the murder of 10,000 Jews in Lithuania, was granted bail in the sum of £83,000. Although, according to his lawyer, he can afford such a sum, Rauca has declined to take advantage of the offer of freedom.

#### Canadian Veteran of Russo-Japanese War

Canada's oldest inhabitant has died at the age of 111. He was Benjamin Sherman of Toronto who, born in the Ukraine under the Tsars, served in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904 before emigrating to Canada. Until a few years ago he was still working in his hardware store.

#### Canadians Hold KKK Men

Canadian and US police have been actively pursuing members of the Ku Klux Klan in Canada. In the Province of Ontario, antisemitic agitator and former KKK head James McQuirter was arrested on charges of conspiracy to murder and forgery, and in Toronto Armand Siksna was held on the same conspiracy charge. Two men stopped in Vermont are wanted by Canadian police on forgery charges but, as both were born in Britain, the US authorities may send them to the UK instead of returning them to Canada.

#### GREEK HEROES HONOURED

Against the background of a virulent Government-sponsored campaign against Israel, Zionism and Jews in general, accompanied by such graffiti as "Jews are Nazis", five Greeks have been presented in Athens with the Yad Vashem medal for their part in saving Jews from the Nazi occupiers during the Second World War. Some 60,000 Greek Jews out of a community of over 70,000, were deported and murdered under the occupation; fewer than 5,000 Jews live in the country today.

#### SOVIET TORPEDO SANK THE "STRUMA"

In 1978, the Soviet Defence Ministry published G. I. Vaneyev's "Black Sea Navy in the Great Patriotic War", based on Vols. 26-27 of the Soviet Central Archives. Only now has it been revealed in the West, by means of an extract published in Emanuel Litvinoff's "Insight" bulletin, that this work contains an exact description of the loss of the refugee ship "Struma"—sunk, not by a storm as formerly believed, but by a Russian torpedo.

The "Struma", a former river-boat, far from seaworthy and carrying over 700 refugees hoping to reach Palestine, was towed out of Istanbul harbour by the Turks on 23 February 1942. The reason was that, even after two months of agonising confinement for those on board, the British authorities refused to grant immigration visas to Palestine to the men, women and children who had managed to make their way from certain death in Hitler's Europe. The following day the overcrowded ship sank with the loss of all but one life.

A translation of the report in Vaneyev's book reads: "Early in the morning of 24 February, 1942, (Submarine) Shch-23 (commanding officer Lt.-Capt. D. M. Denezho and military commissar and political instructor A. G. Rodintsev) sighted the unguarded 7,000-ton enemy transport "Struma". The vessel was attacked at a distance of 6 cables (1,200 yards) by a submarine torpedo which struck and sank her.

Sgt.-Major V. D. Chernov, unit commander Sgt. G. G. Nosov and torpedo operator Red Navy Man I. M. Filatov displayed exemplary courage in this action".

#### FAST WON ROMANIAN VISA

Twelve years of persistent struggle, culminating in a five-week fast, have won exist visas for a Romanian family. The Ratescus and their nine-year-old child will shortly be leaving for Israel. Mrs. Ratescu is not Jewish and it was the objections of her father, President Ceausescu's personal physician, which were the chief hindrance to the grant of exit permission; however, after watching her fast for 36 days, he relented. Mrs. Ratescu intends to convert to Judaism in her new country.

#### BELGIANS SEEK TO HALT "MEIN KAMPF"

Attempts to prohibit a Flemish publishing house issuing a Dutch version of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" seemed to have failed when lawyers pointed out to the Belgian Ministry of Justice that, so long as the publishers were not associated with any neo-Nazi group, anti-racial laws could not be used to ban the book. Moreover, "Mein Kampf" was freely available in French and German throughout Belgium. Consultation with the Dutch Embassy, however, showed that the particular translation had been published in 1974 in Holland and forthwith seized by the authorities, who now hold the copyright and would not allow printing. Dutch and Flemish are so closely related that books in either language are common property for readers.

Further co-operation with the West German government led to proceedings by the State of Bavaria, which holds the legal copyright in "Mein Kampf" and intends to forbid publication in Belgium. Meanwhile the publisher declares that he is not a Nazi sympathiser and is producing the book on purely commercial grounds; he is surprised by the number of orders already received and so far as he is concerned it will remain on sale.

#### SWISS BORDER MAN WAS PUNISHED

Among the 700 trees planted in the Avenue of the Righteous Gentiles in Jerusalem near the Yad Vashem complex of buildings is one in the name of Paul Gruening. During the war, he was a police chief in a Swiss border town who flouted regulations by allowing escaping Jews to cross to neutral soil. But this humanitarian disobedience was noted by his superiors, who felt that a police officer who acted in such a way was not worthy to retain his post nor to receive a pension. Paul Gruening was dismissed and his pension entitlement cancelled.

It was not until 1969 that Yad Vashem learnt the story and could honour the 78-year-old Swiss. The conscience of the Swiss Government was pricked and they formally rehabilitated Paul Gruening after he had lived 30 years in obscurity.

#### MBE FOR SERVICES IN BRAZIL

German-born Elizabeth Dannenberg has worked for the British Tourist Authority in Sao Paulo for over 20 years, and her services to British tourism have recently been acknowledged by the award of an MBE. The official presentation was made by the British Ambassador to Brazil.

#### HARALD ISENSTEIN EXHIBITION

The public libraries of the Copenhagen Borough of Frederiksberg recently arranged an exhibition of the works of Harald Isenstein, sculptor and painter (1898-1980).

Born in Hanover, Isenstein lived in Berlin until 1933. He emigrated to Denmark, the country which for generations had been the home of his ancestors on his mother's side.

His prolific work included portraits and busts of such diverse figures as Albert Einstein, Ben Gurion, Niels Bohr, Constantin Brunner, Hugo Eckener, Kaethe Kollwitz, Sir Thomas Beecham and a host of others. There are sculptures of biblical subjects such as Moses supported by Aaron and Hur and tablets and columns commemorating the fate of the Jews of Oslo and Trondheim.

With the majority of the Jews from Denmark Isenstein was saved by fleeing to Sweden. Outside the Town Hall of Helsingborg is a sculpture of his showing the arrival of a fishing boat carrying refugees from Denmark, depicting one of them as the artist himself.

The exhibition at the Frederiksberg Town Hall showed originals and literally hundreds of photos of his sculptures and paintings. It was well arranged and was attended by a great many people including organised visits by schools.

W.G.



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## THE JEWS IN SCANDINAVIA

The Jews in Scandinavia, approximately 30,000 in number, are in a somewhat unusual situation for a Jewish minority since there is almost no antisemitism. Their main problem seems rather to be the danger of losing their cultural identity. Scarcely anywhere in the world is the rate of Jewish integration and assimilation higher than in the Nordic countries.

What has saved the Scandinavian Jewish communities, to some extent, is a recurrent immigration: refugees from pogroms in Russia and Poland (1880-1912), refugees from the Nazis (1930s and 1940s), refugees from communist persecution in Poland (1966-70). For the most part these Jewish immigrants have been treated very well in Scandinavia. The heroic tales of World War II—of Field Marshal Mannerheim's refusal to deport Finland's Jews, of the 10,000 Danish and Norwegian Jews who were smuggled to safety in Sweden—are well known. Perhaps less well known is the fact that strong antisemitic feeling surfaced in the late 1930s among an influential pro-Nazi minority in Sweden, resulting in tight immigration restrictions against Jews. The restrictions were lifted after the Nazi round-up of Norway's Jews in 1942. After the war, the Scandinavian countries—Sweden in particular—opened their doors to thousands of Jewish war refugees, most of whom were survivors of death camps. Many of these sick and lonely people could not find homes elsewhere.

In contrast to other minority groups in Scandinavia, the Jews do not live in "ghettos". Hence, the synagogues and secular Jewish centres, usually in the middle of the town, become important focal points for the Jewish community whose members are scattered throughout the suburbs.

Jews have traditionally taken an active role in the cultural and economic life of Scandinavia. Even during the Middle Ages, when they were legally forbidden to settle unless they renounced their faith, Jewish businessmen visited Scandinavia on business.

In 1622 Denmark became the first of the Nordic nations to permit Jewish settlement with freedom of religion and certain commercial privileges. Full civil and political equality was not accorded to Danish Jews until 1849, however. Despite their small numbers, Jews have played an important role in Danish life and have produced such outstanding figures as Georg Brandes, the great literary critic and author, Niels Bohr (half-Jewish) a pioneer in the field of atomic energy, and Victor Borge, the pianist and entertainer. Today most of Denmark's Jews (about 8,000 in a population of five million) are centred in Copenhagen. Although most of the older Jews are assimilated into Danish society, the younger generation has expressed a renewed interest in Judaism and has given new life to the Jewish community there.

The second Nordic country to allow Jews to settle was Sweden, which, for mercantile reasons, accepted its first Jew in 1774. Today, there are about 16,500 Jews in a population of over eight million, most of whom live in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. In

1975, the Swedish Parliament authorised state subsidies to cover part of the costs of Jewish religious services. The government also provide major funding for certain activities in some Jewish institutions, such as the Jewish centres in Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmö and Borås. At the same time, Swedish secular society has altered the contours of traditional Swedish life in such unlikely areas as Kashrut. As a result of a Swedish law requiring animals to be killed by stunning, a special dispensation, somewhat modifying the laws of kosher slaughtering, was granted to Swedish Jews by the Chief Rabbinate in Jerusalem. This is the only instance in which such a dispensation has been granted.

Finnish Jewry was initially a handful of Russian youths conscripted to 25 years of military service by Czar Nicholas I in the early 19th century. Despite occasional opposition from an antisemitic local population, many of these young men settled permanently in the Finnish part of the Russian empire. Later, in the chaotic decades preceding the Russian Revolution, Finnish Jews were subjected to harsh antisemitic abuse. Citizenship was not offered to Jews until 1918, when Finland became an independent nation. The Jewish community in Finland today (which numbers about 1,500) is having great difficulties, and many fear its disappearance through intermarriage, emigration (to Sweden, America and Israel) and lack of religious and cultural leadership.

In Norway, intermarriage, emigration and indifference among the young will probably take their toll in the future. Even Oslo, with approximately a thousand Jews, has not yet recovered from the Holocaust, when half the Jewish population was deported. The next few years will be crucial.

There is no Jewish minority as such in Iceland. Any Jews living in Iceland have been completely assimilated and do not show up in statistics.

H. G. HOLM

### MOSES MENDELSSOHN'S COLLECTED WORKS

To the average enlightened European Jew the Sage of Dessau evokes haunting speculation of what might have been. To the scholar, he is a discipline to be studied and "turned over". And it is the latter object that prompted the undertaking of Moses' collected works, begun in celebration of the bicentenary of his birth in 1929. The publishers then were the *Akademie fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums* and the *Gesellschaft zur Foerderung der Wissenschaft des Judentums*, supported by Messrs Mendelssohn & Co.

Violently interrupted by the events we know all too well, the enterprise has been taken up by Friedrich Frommann Verlag (Guenther Holzboog), who have reissued the previous volumes, published others and plan a further six to make a total of 22 volumes of Mendelssohn's work, large and small, both in German and in Hebrew.

The standing of the editors guarantees the scholarship of this opus, and it will no doubt attract (as it deserves) a limited but devoted circle of friends.

The latest volume (6,2) entitled *Kleinere Schriften II*, is edited by Eva J. Engel and contains a contribution by Alexander Altmann. Its three main sections deal with *Sprachwissenschaftliche Schriften*, Translations, and Poetry.

### MINE OF RICHES

These nuggets from the inexhaustible mine of Mendelssohn's literary riches are polished and embellished with a set of informative and illuminating introductions, footnotes, variant readings and annotations. Inevitably, a fair proportion of the work is primarily of antiquarian or scholarly interest, but much is designed to enlighten the educated man of today to whom the Sage is little more than a venerated name.

What this reviewer found of particular personal interest is the discussion of Mendelssohn's philosophy of language in which, not unnaturally, he parts company with Rousseau. To him, human intelligence is innate.

If it is difficult in this new age of barbarism to subscribe to the optimisms which inspired the latter Moses, it is nevertheless refreshing and necessary to be reminded that there is an obverse to the dark side of man.

The price of the *Gesammelte Schriften* is DM 178 per volume, but not obtainable individually.

MICHAEL WALLACH

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## FRANK FALK AT 75

### SERVANT OF GERMAN JEWRY

On 2 December, Dr. Frank E. Falk will celebrate his 75th birthday. The tributes paid to him in these columns by a wide range of organisations bear witness to his unlimited devotion to Jewish causes. The community of Jews from Central Europe has special reason to be grateful to him. He has been a member of the AJR Executive for almost 30 years, served as Hon. Treasurer from 1962-1976 and has been a Vice Chairman since then. He has also been a Trustee of the AJR Charitable Trust since its inception. Last but not least, he is one of the three Joint Chairmen of the Council of Jews from Germany.

In the discharge of these manifold duties he excels by an understanding of the wider issues involved, and has a strong sense of detail. A chartered accountant by profession, he has taken up the legislative problems in tax questions arising from German and Austrian payments, and many alleviations are due to his initiative and his efforts. At the same time he has been helpful to the AJR Office when it is approached with individual questions which do not call for detailed investigation of the particular case. He also writes informative articles and notes on new developments on taxation in AJR Information.

The attention to administrative and legal questions is for him not a purpose in itself. He is driven in his activities by a deep sense of the values of Jewry and Judaism. It is therefore no accident that he also represents the AJR on the committees in charge of the preparation of two important annual functions: the Jewish Book Week and the Meeting in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

It is only natural that by his devotion, expertise and human kindness Frank Falk has gained the affection of all those who work with him in one field or another. They all extend their cordial birthday greetings to him and wish him and his wife, Lilo, happiness and health for a very long time to come.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

### SERVICE TO ZIONISM

It is certainly with the greatest of pleasure that I take this opportunity of writing a few words about Dr. Frank E. Falk, FCA, FTII on the occasion of the celebration of his 75th birthday.

I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Falk for very many years in the Zionist Movement, and in more recent years also as a Brother in B'nai B'rith.

Dr. Falk, born in Düsseldorf is a Chartered Accountant, and these two facts typify him. Let me explain. As a German Jew he is precise, exact and proper in his approach to all things, and as a Chartered Accountant he is meticulous and with an eye for detail, and all these attributes sum up Frank Falk in the numerous activities he has undertaken within the Anglo-Jewish Community.

I first met him when he was Chairman of the Theodor Herzl Society which operates in the Swiss Cottage area in London, and which has been one of the most successful Zionist Societies for more years than Dr. Falk or I would care to remember.

Frank Falk to me is not merely an Honorary Officer of a local group or society, however important that is, since for many years he has been on the National Executive of the Zionist Federation and actively associated with its Constitution Committee, of which he is now Deputy Chairman. In fact to me Frank Falk is "Mr. Constitution", since as a fellow member of the Council of the Leo Baeck London Lodge of B'nai Brith, and formerly as colleagues on the Board of Deputies, it is always on Constitutional matters that one has found Frank to be the expert with his clear and precise attitude. I cannot speak of Dr. Falk's work as Secretary of the Keren Hayesod and Palestine Office in Hamburg, or of his work in

the Association of Jewish Refugees or the Council of Jews from Germany, in which he has, and continues to have high office, but within the Zionist Movement and B'nai Brith his orderly approach to organisational and constitutional matters is a byword. He has done sterling work in these spheres (including specifically within the United Zionist framework as a non-political Zionist).

Nowadays as Director of the Jewish National Fund our paths cross primarily within the Leo Baeck Lodge of B'nai Brith, but I will always continue to value his advice and judgement, and his practical approach which is all important in working for the Jewish Community and for Israel.

SIDNEY L. SHIPTON  
Director, Jewish National Fund

### BROAD INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

Among the many facets of Dr. Frank Falk's communal work is his service to the general community through his membership of the Board of Deputies. He represents B'nai Brith there, but in an unofficial way he also represents the interests of the German refugee community of this country, of whose problems he is so aware and about which he is so knowledgeable.

Dr. Falk's familiarity with the German, and indeed the European scene has been so greatly appreciated by the Board that very soon after becoming a Deputy he was elected to the Foreign Affairs Committee. This is the committee which deals with all problems of Jewish communities in the Diaspora. As Chairman of the Committee I can testify to the valuable contribution Dr. Falk makes to our work. We have, in fact, asked him to act as a kind of unofficial rapporteur on matters relating to Germany and he fulfils this task with his customary sense of responsibility and with great expertise on the subject.

I would not like to conclude this tribute to Dr. Falk's work on Diaspora Jewish problems without referring to the valuable service on the same lines which he performed long before becoming a Deputy and indeed long before the Board of Deputies affiliated to the World Jewish Congress. In those days Dr. Falk was a leading member of what was then the British Section of the World Jewish Congress.

I always regarded it as a privilege to work with Dr. Falk. There are not too many members of our community who have the broad international outlook which he brings to his work. I hope that he will have the health and strength to continue for many years to come.

S. J. ROTH  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
Board of Deputies

### A TRUE BEN B'RITH

Frank Falk and the Leo Baeck Lodge, the Leo Baeck Lodge and Frank Falk: it is difficult to think of one without the other. For over twenty years, Brother Dr. Falk, Frank to all of us, has been a member of our Lodge and during this period he has carved out for himself a niche in our hearts and in our minds which is virtually unique.

Some Brothers are respected for their specialist knowledge of one or the other facet of our lives, others for the compassionate way in which they put such knowledge to the use of an individual's or the common good, or they may be highly regarded for their administrative skills, for their instant perception of, and ability to untie, even the most knotty problems, and others again are admired for the repute in which they are held at local, national and indeed international level. Frank Falk is respected, highly regarded and admired for all of this, but there is so much more to him than that; for he has not lightly gained the place which he holds in our Lodge. He has gained it by selfless addiction to hard work, by painstaking devotion to, and involvement in whatever he sees as the task of the moment, or whatever the tasks which others consider him alone capable of tackling; and there are so many, and Frank never says "No" when appealed to.

Even this is not all. Fearlessly standing up to be counted, he boldly speaks up, even if to the chagrin of some, for what he considers to be right and condemns what he considers to be wrong, in whatever way his conscience dictates. Never allowing himself to be sidetracked, he generously forgives us for, though he does not necessarily forget, our deviations from the straight and narrow path; a stalwart bastion of constitutional rectitude, he is the quintessential good man, one of nature's gentlemen absolute. He has shown us what it means to be a true Ben B'rith, not only mouthing but practising Benevolence, Brotherly Love and Harmony, a friend, a teacher and a guiding light. No other Brother has been so well loved.

Brother Frank, on this your 75th birthday we thank you for all you have done, for us as individuals, for the Lodge of which you are such a luminary and for the movement which you have served with such devotion and distinction. We pray that many more years will be granted to you, for us to bask in your shadow, for you to enjoy in health and happiness and contentment, in the company of your beloved Lilo and of your adored and adoring family. We humbly salute you!

W. R. POWELL

### UNTIRING WORKER

It is a great pleasure to join in the many tributes which will be paid to Dr. F. E. Falk on the occasion of his 75th birthday. I do so on behalf of the Theodor Herzl Society.

As its Chairman for many years and now as a member of the Executive and Hon. Treasurer the Society is much indebted to him for his untiring work and efforts. Since I took over the Chairmanship he has been of immense help to me. I could call on our friend at any time in spite of his many and varied activities for several organisations. I, for one, admire his capacity for work! May he be blessed with good health for many years to come.

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Continued from page 6

## FALK AT 75

## TRIBUTE FROM BELSIZE SQUARE

Although, as I recently wrote about someone else, the Bible does not speak of three-score-years-and-fifteen, when it comes to the 75th birthday of Dr. Falk one should sit up and take notice. It is not so much the birthday itself but the opportunity it affords to write a few words about him.

Dr. Falk has been on the Board of our Synagogue since 1966—a long time by any standards. Initially he took no particularly prominent part in our affairs, and I would not be surprised if even then we had to compete with the AJR in our claim upon his time. Be this as it may, it was I who eventually managed to rope him in. Mind you, it was partly his own fault! He had been agitating for some time—and quite rightly, too—that something more should be done in the cause of Israel. The upshot was that in 1971 I was able to persuade our Board to set up an Israel Committee. One side of it dealt with fund-raising, the other with cultural activities as it was felt that these, too, were an important task. I well remember the Board meeting during that year when I asked various Board members, Dr. Falk included, to come forward and offer their services.

Well, Dr. Falk did come forward and undertook to chair the cultural sub-committee and has been doing so ever since. I don't suppose he thanks me for it as I realise it is to some extent a frustrating assignment. I know he goes to infinite trouble to make meetings as interesting as possible by engaging speakers of calibre. Attendances, however, sometimes leave much to be desired. This, I also know, can be embarrassing when an outside personality of some standing has been invited to talk to us. It rather reminds me of the Mexican financial débâcle: if you have no oil, you are in trouble; if you do have oil, you seem to be in worse trouble. In other words, if you have no cultural activities, you get no end of complaints; if you do have them where is the audience? I can only surmise we are not the only ones to suffer from this general apathy where cultural pursuits are concerned. I make rather a song and dance about it because I know how Dr. Falk feels about this subject.

He also plays a useful part in the deliberations of our Finance Committee. Furthermore, many of the Synagogue's members will be grateful to him for his work in matters of restitution through the AJR, and for personal advice proffered.

His birthday gives me the chance to express to him on behalf of all of us at Belsize Square our sincere appreciation of his work, and to wish him many more years of health and happiness in our midst.

WALTER STRAUSS  
Hon. Treasurer,  
Belsize Square Synagogue

## CONFERENCE ON NAZI LAW

Despite past refusals, the Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice is to hold a conference in Trier next year on the theme "Law in National Socialism". It is only a short time ago that a Ministry spokesman declared that the publicity surrounding a seminar on National Socialist justice would demand too much work by way of preparation. Experience gained from two previous conferences would not, he maintained, be sufficient for this particular topic to be discussed without sensationalism. This view was criticised by the Federal Justice Minister and others, and Lower Saxony's new Justice Minister has declared that the subject is one which must be faced by present-day German jurists.

# GERMAN JEWS IN GLOBAL BANKING

## An Historical Study

"The history of Jews in banking in Germany is an exceptional one", Dr. Kurt Grunwald observes at the beginning of his "Studies in the History of German Jews in Global Banking". He reminds us that "the prominence of Jews in banking, particularly in Germany during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, is a striking phenomenon that, while often commented upon, has never been fully explored and explained". The reader of this collection of essays (partly previously published in Year Books of the L.B.I. and the A.J.R. but mostly new) will enjoy the fruits of the author's painstaking research and documentation of the subject.

The status of Jews as "servus cameri—Kammerknechte—" of the feudal states gave way in the case of Jewish financiers to the position of Court Jews—Hofjuden—to the absolutist rulers of the numerous principalities in Germany. They became Hoffactors, Liverants, Financial Agents and Masters of the Mint. Their elevated position fitted them very often to be spokesmen (Shtadlanim) of the Jewish community. However the enjoyment of honour and privileges also meant dangerous living. More often than not the Jew was sacrificed as a scapegoat. The extreme case was the dramatic end of Jud Suess, once the trusted financial adviser of princes, on the gallows. With the end of the ancien régime and the Napoleonic wars the Court Jew eventually became the Hofbankier. We now enter the period of the banking houses of the Rothschilds, the Speyers and the Bleichroeders and many other banking families who carried on their business from generation to generation far beyond the borders of their country.

Krasensky, in his "Kurzgefasste Bankgeschichte", 1968, notes for 1812: "Emancipation of the Jews under Hardenberg. Consequently, the Jews soon became an important factor in German finance". The 19th century saw an unprecedented upsurge in the development of private banking in Germany. In the Rhineland and Berlin the number of private banks almost trebled in four decades, in all of Prussia it almost doubled for the period from 1820 to 1861. The percentage of Jews in banking was considerable. Grunwald quotes from reliable sources that in Berlin in 1870, thirty of the fifty-two banks were Jewish. Among early Jewish banks in Germany the author mentions names known to us until their forced liquidation or arianisation in 1938/9 as Warburg, Hamburg, 1798; S. Bleichroeder, Berlin, 1803; Simon Hirschland, Essen, 1841. Quite a number of them started as merchants and bankers, eg Rothschild, Frankfurt, in textiles and coins; Gebr. Arons, Berlin, "Tuch und Bankgeschaef". In rural areas Jews became strongly entrenched in a double capacity as produce merchants and bankers. They prefinanced the harvest, with all the risks attached.

The period from the end of the 19th century to the outbreak of the First World War saw a rapid industrial development in Germany. Unlike the banks in other Western countries, German banks took an active part in the long-term finance and capital promotion of industrial firms by underwriting share and debenture issues. Bankers became members of the board of directors or Vorsitzende der Aufsichtsräte, which made them members of the policy-making bodies. Figures quoted by Grunwald for the percentage of Jews in the management of German industry are revealing: 31% in breweries, 31% in metal, 29% in

cement, timber, etc. Karl Fuerstenberg of the Berliner Handelsgesellschaft, Max Warburg and Albert Ballin and Emil Rathenau are mentioned in this respect.

There were the new Court Jews, the "Kaiser-Juden" whom Wilhelm II favoured with his confidence. The 20th century saw a gradual but marked decline in private banking with the development of the big deposit banks and their networks of branches. Among the founders and directors of the Grossbanken we find a good number of Jews—Jakob Riesser of the National Bank fuer Deutschland, Kurt Sobernheim of the Commerz und Privatbank, Eugen Guttmann, founder of the Dresdner Bank.

German Jews in English Banking is the opening chapter in the part of Grunwald's study dealing with Jewish bankers in the financial centres of the Western world who hailed from Germany. Here we find the names of the Rothschilds, the Speyers, the Japhets, Singer & Friedlaender and others who, like their relations and business associates in Paris and New York (Kuhn, Loeb) had, and in some cases still have, influence in their respective fields of activity. The preponderance of Jews in German banking deserves further study of its sociological, political and psychological aspects. Dr. Grunwald's book will be of great value for such further explorations.

DOLF MICHAELIS

*This review was written by our late friend Dolf Michaelis shortly before his untimely death last year. It is regretted that, for lack of space, its publication had to be held over.*

The Ed.

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## IN MEMORIAM

### WERNER M. LASH

We regret to report the death of Mr. Lash, who died, aged 71, in a car accident while on his way to a Selichot Service. His wife escaped with shock and minor bruises.

Mr. Lash was born in Upper Silesia where he was educated. When the Nazis took power he emigrated to England and served during the War in H.M. Forces. He obtained an accountancy qualification and was for most of his professional life Accountant to a food-processing public company in Bedfordshire where he also had his home before settling in London approximately ten years ago. He showed an early interest in the B'nai B'rith and served as President of the Luton and Beds & Herts Lodges. A few years after joining the Leo Baeck (London) Lodge, he was elected its President and served with much distinction. On retirement from this office, he was elected National Treasurer of the Great Britain District of B'nai B'rith and, in 1980, he was elected National President. In these offices he showed great devotion and ability. He was an inspiring public speaker, forthright and clear. During his Presidency he gave energetic leadership, greatly strengthening the effectiveness of B'nai B'rith.

Mr. Lash was for some years a Warden of the Kingsbury Synagogue and a member of the Board of Deputies. He held other offices and was much respected in the Anglo-Jewish Community. He was also an interested member of our Association, on whose Board he served, and of the "Friends of Heinrich Stahl House".

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Lash and her family.

F.E.F.

### ANNA FREUD

We regret to announce the death of Anna Freud at the age of 86. She was also a member of the AJR. An obituary will appear in the next issue.

### MAX BRAUDE

Director of ORT for 30 years, Max Braude died recently in Jerusalem. He was 69. Born in the USA, Mr. Braude was chief chaplain of the US 7th Army during the Second World War and on Germany's defeat he took over spiritual responsibility for all the Jews still confined in Displaced Persons camps throughout Europe. He also worked with relief agencies such as the HIAS at the end of the war, and it was at this time that he first became connected with ORT. An expert on refugee problems, Mr. Braude was often asked for his advice by successive US governments.

### ELLEN SIMON

The social worker and educationist Dr. Ellen Simon has died in Berlin at the age of 87. Before 1933 she held several important positions in Germany. While the Nazis were in power she stayed in various countries of emigration. She was at the Quaker school in Ommen (Holland), where quite a few persecuted Jewish children found refuge, and in the East End of London during the bombing period. She returned to Germany in 1948, where she first worked for the "Verein fuer private und oeffentliche Fuersorge" and later was head of the Pestalozzi-Froebelhaus from 1953 to 1961.

E.G.L.

### PETER DE MENDELSSOHN

The author Peter de Mendelssohn died recently in Munich. For many years he lived in England, having emigrated as soon as the Nazis seized power, but had returned to Germany in 1970. With nearly 30 books to his credit, Peter de Mendelssohn was also the editor of Thomas Mann's diaries; he made a special study of Mann and the second volume of his massive biography "Der Zauberer" was on the verge of publication at his death. Other subjects of de Mendelssohn's works included the publisher Samuel Fischer, Goethe's contemporary Eckermann and "Zeitungsstadt Berlin".

### YOSEF YEKUTIELI

Yosef Yekutieli, the man who inspired the Maccabiah Games as a sports event for Jews world-wide died recently aged 85. He first suggested the Games at the Maccabi World Union meeting in 1929 and three years later saw the inaugural event in Tel Aviv.

### DICTIONARY MAKER

Refugees have made distinctive contributions in many fields, but there can be only a few—if any others—who have written an English dictionary. Such is the case with Berlin-born AJR member David Kut, whose "Dictionary of Applied Energy Conservation" has just been published by RIBA Publications Ltd. (Royal Institute of British Architects) at £14.95. It is a comprehensive and valuable reference source for everyone concerned with energy conservation—architects, individuals, design and service engineers, and lists over 1,500 international terms, explaining all the specialist terminology.

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- 1 Nov. Dr. Kurt Pflueger: "Die Entstehung eines Buches. Ein Beitrag zur Theatergeschichte."
- 8 Nov. Dennis Signy: "A Day in the life of an Editor."
- 15 Nov. Heinrich Wiedemann: "Johann Peter Hebel (1760-1826). Ein Menschenformler aus der Zeit der Vernunft."
- 22 Nov. Hans Seelig: "Joseph Haydn—250. Geburtstag" (mit Musik).
- 29 Nov. Rosamund Owen, J. P.: "The lighter side of sitting on the Bench."
- 6 Dec. Berta Sterly: Einfuehrung zu Arthur Schnitzlers "Fraulein Else", gesprochen von Elisabeth Bergner (Recorded).
- 13 Dec. Herbert Sulzbach: "Rueckblick auf die letzten 80 Jahre."
- 20 Dec. Alan Delgado: "The Thames for Pleasure" (with slides).

1983

- 10 Jan. Prof. W. Stearne: "Two 18th Century Swedish Naturalists—Carl Linnaeus and Daniel Solander."
- 17 Jan. Geoffrey Finsberg, M.B.E., J.P., M.P.: "A day in the life of an M.P."
- 24 Jan. Gedenkfeier fuer Gabriele Tergit. Veranstaltet vom Club 1943 und dem P. E. N. Zentrum Deutschsprachiger Autoren im Ausland unter Mitwirkung von Prof. H. G. Adler, Arnold Reinfrank, Adele Rosenbaum.
- 31 Jan. Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Club 1943. Details will be announced later.

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## GERMAN CITIES

### JEWISH VISITORS TO GERMAN CITIES

When the Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation in Marburg, jointly with the city authorities, issued an invitation to former Jewish fellow-citizens, it included not only residents of the town itself but also former inhabitants of the surrounding villages. This, the fourth invitation to Marburg's Jews, met with a gratifying response. Twenty-five guests from all parts of the world attended receptions, illustrated lectures and tours of Marburg, taking in visits to Alsfeld and Fulda.

Würzburg was the scene of another encounter between Jews and Germans when two Israeli youth groups simultaneously visited the town this summer. One party came from Jerusalem's M.E. School and the other from the sports organisation Hapoel Ra'anana.

### FULL VISIT OF HEIDELBERG MAYOR

Heidelberg's Mayor Reinhold Zundel and the Chairman of Heidelberg Jewry, Professor Leo Rubinstein, recently spent some days in Israel with the twin objects of reuniting former fellow-citizens and of strengthening the city's links with the State. Some thirty families attended a reception in Tel Aviv and also among the guests was the German Ambassador Niels Hansen, who had himself studied at Heidelberg. In the course of his address, Mayor Zundel referred to the Reverend Hermann Maas who had supported the Jews of Heidelberg during the Hitler regime and who was the first German to have a tree planted for him in Yad Vashem's Grove of Honour. The guests were shown the plans for the proposed new building to house the Academy for Jewish Studies and each of them received a plate depicting a view of Heidelberg reproduced from Sebastian Muenster's 16th-century Kalendarium Hebraicum. While in Israel, the Mayor and Professor Rubinstein visited the Yad Vashem Memorial, the exhibition of Jewish diaspora life in the Nahum-Goldmann Museum, and the Weizmann Institute. The Mayor took the opportunity to discuss civic and communal problems with his counterparts from Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Rehovot.

### REUNION IN GIESSEN

More than 30 former citizens of Giessen were guests of their home town for one week. They came from Israel, USA, Holland, England and Argentina. Among them was the former Mayor of Natania, Dr. Avraham Bar-Menachem (originally Alfred Gutsmuth). As Giessen is twinned with Natania, the present Mayor, Rubin Kligler, was also present. One of the highlights of the gathering was the consecration of an impressive memorial, designed by Professor Joachim Spier, at the New Cemetery. At the ceremony the speakers included the Giessen Lord Mayor Goernert, Landesrabbiner Professor Roth, the chairman of the new Jewish community, Professor Dr. Altaras, the chairman of the Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany, Mr. Werner Nachman, and the archivist of the city, Professor Dr. Erwin Knaus, who has devoted much effort to tracing the addresses of emigrated former citizens and other preparatory work. Professor Knaus has also published a documentation of the fate of the Giessen Jews between 1933 and 1945 and arranged an exhibition on this subject on the occasion of the visit. There were 1,250 Jewish residents in Giessen in 1933, and it is estimated that 750-800 emigrated, albeit to some extent to countries where they were trapped by the Nazis during the war.

Another highlight was the award of the Hedwig Burgheim Medal to Dr. Bar-Menachem. This medal has been endowed in memory of the head of the Froebel Seminar, who was deported. Further functions included a Friday Evening Service, a reception of the Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation and excursions and sightseeing tours.

The reunion was a memorable event for all who attended it.

### FRIEDBERG

#### Appeal to former Citizens

Under the auspices of the Friedberg Protestant Congregation efforts are being made to obtain information about former Jewish citizens who had to leave the town under the Nazi regime or were victims of the holocaust. It is intended to put the names of both the deportees and the emigrants on a memorial plaque which is to be fixed on the site of the "Judenbad", one of the most famous monuments of Jewish cultural history in Germany.

Former Friedberg residents are asked to contact: Evangelische Kirchengemeinde, Kaiserstr. 167, 6360, Friedberg 1, West Germany.

### LIPPSTADT HISTORY

The periodical "Der Maerker" (Bismarckstr. 15, 5990 Altena) carries a comprehensive article about the history of the Jews in Lippstadt up to the end of the Thirty Years War. The author is Eduard Muehle, a student, at the university of Münster. An interesting feature of the article is the tracing of the family of David Gans, whose main work "Zemach David" was a Jewish and world history. He was born in Lippstadt in 1541 and died in Prague in 1613. Gans was an astronomer and mathematician as well as a Torah sage.

Mr. Muehle spent a year in England and also wrote an article in the "Heimatblaetter" (Lippstadt) about the Torah scroll of Anroechte which was rescued by Mr. Simon Levi and donated by him to the Middlesex New Synagogue.

The Torah Scroll of another small Westphalian congregation, Erwitte, was rescued by Mr. Robert Sternberg and taken by him to South Africa. It had been donated by Mr. Sternberg's grandfather Herz Sternberg in 1855 and has thus been in the possession of the family for more than 125 years.

### LUENEBURG REMEMBERS ITS JEWS

Several articles in the local "Landeszeitung" recently recorded the history of a number of old-established Jewish families of Lueneburg. A member of one of these families was the philosopher Fritz Heinemann, who was a professor at Frankfurt University until he was dismissed in 1933. He died in Oxford in 1970. All of Heinemann's publications have been collected and a special Fritz-Heinemann-Archiv was founded by the municipality in 1972 with Oberstudienrat Manfred Goeske as its curator. The material is going to be catalogued and made available for scholarly research.

Oberstudienrat Goeske (Ratsbuecherei, Marienplatz 3, 3140 Lueneburg) is also anxious to receive material about Jewish families in Lueneburg and plans to use it for a book about the Jews in Lueneburg. In his letter to the AJR he mentions that there have been several exhibitions, a memorial service in the churches and various other events "paying respect to former Jewish members of our community".

It will be recalled that Heinrich Heine's parents lived in Lueneburg from 1821-1828. The poet stayed there several times. The Heine-Haus, just opposite the Town Hall, is still standing and is kept in good condition.

### ISRAELI GUESTS OF BERLIN

A group of 340 former Berliners from Israel recently visited the city. Since the scheme was launched in 1969, a total of 13,000 guests from various countries have been received.

### DUESSELDORF'S PICTURE SHOW

The City of Düsseldorf recently mounted an exhibition entitled "Bilder sind nicht verboten" and devoted to the theme of Jewish-Christian dialogue. Some paintings shown were by 19th-century artists, but the majority were by contemporary workers, including a number of canvases produced during the Third Reich period.

### FRANKFURT WIZO'S NEW YOUTH CENTRE

The name of Heinz-Herbert Karry, the Hessian Economics Minister murdered last year, is to be perpetuated in a youth centre in Naharya established in his memory by Frankfurt a.M. WIZO members. The group, who called their campaign for donations "We owe him thanks", managed to collect 250,000 DM for the project in just 6 months. Herr Karry had for many years supported the aims of WIZO, and his widow was presented at a ceremony held in Frankfurt with a book containing the names of all donors to the Heinz-Herbert-Karry Youth Centre.

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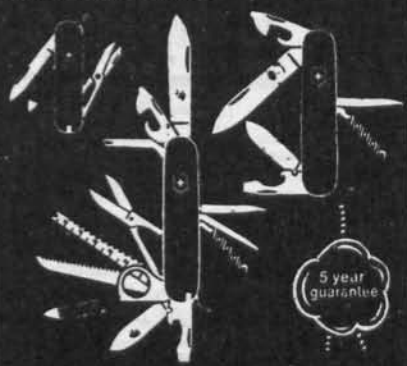
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# THE ISRAELI SCENE

## ISRAEL LEADS IN MEDICAL DEVICES

Israel technology, particularly in medical electronics, may soon receive investments and co-operation from a number of British companies if the recent visit of Professor Arie Lavie is successful. Professor Lavie, the chief scientist of the Israeli Ministry of Industry and Trade, came to London to discuss the possibilities for joint action in a number of fields. Among the devices which are likely to be the subject of Anglo-Israeli ventures are a train indicator showing times and destinations in different colours; a flat liquid crystal TV screen; the Rhinotherm, a protection against the common cold; and two kinds of artificial kidney machine, one of them no bigger than a briefcase. Professor Lavie said that Israel was now the leader in the field of medical electronics, producing about 30 new devices each year. In genetic engineering, the Weizmann Institute had managed to make synthetic Interferon from cell cultures and this research appeared so promising that the Israeli government was to grant £12 million for future development. Even more futuristic was research into robotics, where it was hoped that agricultural and car-welding robots would join the four or five types already being used in industry.

## NEW CLIPPER FOR ELAT

Once a Portuguese fishing-boat, the "Galaxy" has been converted by an Israeli businessman into a two-masted square-rigged sailing ship. The work was carried out in London's Royal Albert Dock and the "Galaxy" is being sailed 4,000 miles by a crew of eight to her new berth in Elat. She will be the only ship of her type in Israel and is intended for pleasure cruising in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea.

## MAJOR FIND IN JERUSALEM DIG

Archaeologists who withstood attempts earlier in the year to prevent them digging into King David's Jerusalem are jubilant over their finds of clay seals dating from the time of the First Temple. Forty-seven seals bearing the names of Jerusalem citizens have come to light and Professor Yigael Shilo declares that this is the largest collection of its kind and "a major find of First Temple written evidence". Earlier discoveries have been dated to the days of the Canaanites or the Middle Bronze Age, including part of the Canaanite wall. Tools and pottery from the time of David and Solomon have also been brought to the surface.

Orthodox Jews attempt to halt the excavations on the grounds that an ancient Jewish cemetery would be disturbed and desecrated, and it was only after bitter quarrels and demonstrations had been referred to the decision of the Knesset that Professor Shilo could continue his work.

In their second season of excavations at Tel Shiloh about 25 miles north of Jerusalem, Bar-Ilan University archaeologists have found sacrificial clay vessels and a row of store-rooms dating from the period of the Judges. The team, headed by Dr. Israel Finkelstein, believe that they may have discovered the spot where the Ark of the Covenant was kept 3,000 years ago.

## WEST GERMAN SPY RELEASED

After serving two-thirds of a 15-year sentence, West German Peter Pohlmann has been freed from an Israeli prison and allowed to return home. In 1972, then aged 28, Pohlmann was convicted of spying for Syria. At one time it was said that he was the son of Jewish victims of the Holocaust, but he has denied such reports.

## VETERAN PHILOSOPHER ERICH BLOCH

Dr. Erich Bloch of Constance celebrated his 85th birthday not long ago in his native city. In the meantime he had fought in the First World War as a volunteer, studied many branches of philosophy, after Hitler's Machtergreifung set up an agricultural training college for young Jews hoping to emigrate to Palestine, himself emigrated to Palestine, run a laundry in Naharia, dedicated himself to the cause of reconciliation and peace between nations, then, for health reasons, returned to Constance and published the history of the Jews of that city. Even such a bare outline of Dr. Bloch's life is breathtaking, without mentioning his numerous writings against hatred (a fruit of his ingrained pacifism), his welcome presence at conferences, and the foundation of a library devoted to the Constance Jewish community. Not for nothing was Erich Bloch in 1971 formally granted the title of "More b'Israel", a teacher in Israel.

## ISRAELI COMPUTER LISTS POP SONGS

After nearly thirty years of manually-compiled lists, the Top 100 pop records will henceforth be shown on a list produced by the Israeli-designed Elbit Keypact computer. Gallup Polls won the contract to provide Top 100 particulars and have installed computer terminals in 250 record shops, where sales will be automatically registered, collated and listed each week. The computer will prepare the results ready to be sent to record dealers and newspapers.

## REFUGEE COMMITTEE SET UP

A cabinet committee headed by Mordecai Ben-Porat has been set up in Israel to study the question of refugees throughout the Middle East. Preliminary work by an expert panel, it is hoped, will determine the exact number of refugees resulting from the series of Arab-Israeli wars. They will also assess the work of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Arab Refugees, which has operated since 1949.

## FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge: any voluntary donations would, however, be appreciated. Texts should be sent in by 15th of the month.

### Births

**Gordon:**— Harold and Eva Gordon (Leicester) and Dick Kellett (The Hague, Holland) announce the arrival of their grandchild, a daughter to Dr. Michael and Pat Gordon (Finchley).

### Birthday

**Adler:**— Hermine Adler will celebrate her 103rd birthday on the 26 November. 60 Tanfield Avenue, London, NW2.

### Deaths

**Berney:**— Mela Berney, of 3 Adria Road, Didsbury, Manchester 20, died 16 September at the Morris Feinmann Home, 178 Palatine Road, Didsbury, Manchester, after a long illness, patiently borne. Dearly loved and sadly missed by all her friends and all who knew her.

**Mayer:**— Dr. Erich Mayer, formerly Freiburg/Cologne, died peacefully on 20 September at Osmond House. Sadly missed by his son Arthur, daughter-in-law, grand-daughters and other relatives.

**Sondheimer:**— Max Sondheimer, beloved husband of Ida Sondheimer and father of Professor Ernst Sondheimer, died peacefully on 3 October.

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### INFORMATION REQUIRED

#### AJR Enquiry

**Sachs:**— Would Dr. W. Sachs, last known address 19 Tideswell Road, London SW15 6LJ please contact the Membership Department.

### Personal Enquiry

**GOERKE Hans,** last known in Birmingham, is sought by his relations from Hirschberg/Silesia, now in San Francisco. Box 951.

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# WEIGHT OF THE EVIL PAST

## SENTENCE ON EXTREMIST LAWYER

After more than six months' hearings, a Stuttgart court has sentenced members of the right-wing extremist "Deutsche Aktionsgruppe" to varying terms of imprisonment for their part in bombings two years ago. Manfred Roeder, the lawyer and propagandist whom the judges regarded as the ringleader of the group, was given a sentence of 13 years' imprisonment and disbarred. Because no direct link with the explosions could be proved against him, his sentence was less than the terms of life imprisonment imposed on Raymund Hörnle and Sibylle Vorderbrügge, who were held responsible for the deaths of two Vietnamese refugees in an attack on a resettlement camp. They were also found guilty of several attempted murders. Dr. Heinz Colditz is to serve six years.

The group had planted bombs in two refugee camps, an Auschwitz exhibition in Esslingen, the home of the councillor organising the exhibition, and the Janusz Korczak School in Hamburg. This trial represented the first proceedings in the Federal Republic against right-wing extremists accused of murder.

## NAZI NOSTALGIA FLOURISHING

Despite the attempts of the Federal German government, West Germans are experiencing a flourishing trade in "Nazi nostalgia". Right-wing papers carry advertisements offering Wehrmacht badges, SS uniforms, gasmasks and photos of Hitler, among a host of other items. Munich auctioneers recently sold a decorative plate inscribed: "Ein starker Führer in stürmischer Zeit". The price paid was £40 and the plate was only one lot in a sale of Nazi paraphernalia.

By law, objects of this sort should only be bought for the purpose of research or teaching, to be used as an antidote to Nazi propaganda. But the "Third Reich industry" no longer bothers to pretend that sales are made only to scholars or institutes.

Perhaps even more sinister is the trade in "Souvenir medals of great Germans". Here, there is no attempt to reproduce Nazi emblems and advertising is not confined to the right-wing journals. But the "great Germans" so commemorated are men of the stamp of Rudolf Hess, Otto Skorzeny, Panzer-Chief Guderian and Admiral Doenitz.

## CIVIL SERVANT "WELCOMED" GASSING

In the trial of Wilhelm Westerheide and Johanna Zelle for the murder of Ukrainian Jews, two elderly witnesses tried to deny that they knew anything about the mass murders. Pressed further, Dr. Bräutigam, formerly an official in the National Socialist "Ostministerium" (and after the war head of the Ostabteilung in the West German Foreign Office), admitted having read the Wannsee protocol immediately after the conference in 1942 and also having seen the "Wetzel letter" of 1941, which contains the passages: "Herr Viktor Brack . . . is ready to collaborate in the installation of the necessary buildings and gas plants . . . One need have no scruple in using Brack's method to liquidate Jews who are unsuitable for work . . .". Dr. Bräutigam said, "We welcomed that letter because it meant that public executions would no longer be held".

Another former civil servant declared that, when visiting Vladimir-Volynsk, he had never noticed a ghetto there. When it was pointed out that the entrance of the ghetto was next door to Westerheide's office building, he conceded that as there were many Jews in the district, he could not say that no ghetto existed. Like Dr. Bräutigam, he stoutly maintained that the civil administration was forbidden to meddle in Jewish affairs.

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## THEATRE AND CULTURE

**German TV Serial.** ZDF honoured Thomas Mann by serializing his unfinished novel "Bekenntnisse des Hochstaplers Felix Krull" which appeared highly suited to the TV medium and was given in five parts. Produced by Bavaria Ateliers, this film—a subject that had occupied Thomas Mann for many years (from 1911) before finally being published in 1954—had an impressive cast list, including British actors Rita Tushingham and Joss Ackland, as well as Vera Tschechowa, the late Olga's granddaughter, and also Daphne Wagner, a great-granddaughter of Richard Wagner.

**50 Years ago** a new star of the screen rose quickly to heights of fame: discovered in Budapest, *Franziska Gaal* scored immediately in the lighthearted comedy "Paprika" in which she was partnered by Paul Hoerbiger. Her Austro-Hungarian charm was again reflected during the next 2 years in "Gruss und Kuss, Veronika" and "Csibi der Fratz." After her emigration, Franziska Gaal played small parts in American films.

**Personalities.** *Hans Hotter*, the bass-baritone, now aged 73 and retired, will give a talk about his life and career at the Royal Festival Hall (Waterloo Room) on Saturday, 27 November, at 6.15 p.m. *Thomas Fritsch*, son of *Willy Fritsch*, the unforgotten film bon viveur, played the male lead in "Cristina's Heimreise" by Hugo von Hofmannsthal which opened the season in Vienna's "Josefstadt." The play "Duet for One" by former actor Tom Kempinski,

who wrote it for his wife, the actress Frances de la Tour, is now playing at the "Kammerspiele", Vienna, and at the Nationaltheater, Oslo.

**Offenbach still prominent.** Although not a jubilee year, Offenbach's works have been given special attention all over the Continent during the first part of this season: "Tales of Hoffmann" was revived in Stuttgart and Innsbruck, "La Vie Parisienne" is playing at the Opera House, Frankfurt, and the Opéra Comique in Paris, which—after a break—reopens in mid-November, has "Hoffmann" and "La belle Hélène" in its initial programme.

**Obituary.** *Franz Grothe*, composer of innumerable German song hits and film tunes, has died at the age of 74. His song "Jede Frau hat ein suesses Geheimnis" became a top seller, and after World War II, Grothe's name appeared regularly on practically every light music programme in Germany.

S.B.

### PROPAGANDIST SCHOOLTEACHERS KEEP POSTS

A Brunswick court has sentenced a teacher from Hannover Münden to two years of salary cuts following evidence that he lent one of his pupils "Der Fall Rassiner", a book denying German war crimes. A few months ago the headmaster of the same school was reinstated in his position after similar charges had been proved against him.

### GABRIELLA ROSENTHAL IN JERUSALEM

Those who remember the Yishuv as it was under the British Mandate before the establishment of the State of Israel, will be nostalgically delighted with the vignettes and pithy descriptions in this book\* by a gifted illustrator and writer who contributed regularly to the Palestine Post until 1948 and occasionally thereafter.

Gabriella Rosenthal (1913-1975), a member of the famous book-selling family, was born in Munich and studied art there and in Paris before settling in Palestine (as it then was) in 1935. She spoke Arabic and Hebrew fluently and for a time taught drawing and painting in Druze and Arab villages where she was a most welcome visitor.

Her caricatures and sketches poke gentle fun at the mixed inhabitants of Jerusalem, a teeming city where endless creeds and nationalities met and meet. Her impish sense of humour is always apparent in her work and she laughs in a friendly way at human foibles and eccentricities. Gabriella's Jerusalem was not the city we know today. It had its violence and cruel political differences, but it was not divided and all its groups together formed a definable community with its own exotic individuality and expression. It is this that the author and artist has been able to catch and transfer to paper. Nicolleta Rosenthal Misch has ably edited the book with the help of her family and friends.

ALICE AND WALTER SCHWAB

\*In and Around Jerusalem with Gabriella Rosenthal, published by Tebo Press, Seattle, USA and obtainable from A. Rosenthal Limited, 9 & 10 Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3AB, price £7.50.

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